

CROW'S NEST



Crow's Nest is a newsletter which is for those who collect anything related with the U.S. Navy, USCG, OSCGS, USPHS or Merchant Marine. photocopies that show unusual and old rates, etc., can be sent with a description if possible. If you want your name to appear in the Crow's Nest, let us know. This is for now. FREE!!! Free ads can be submitted to go into Ship Chest, that is what was used for clothes sold aboard ship in the old days.



John A. Stacey was kind enough to let us illustrate this early badge for an unknown sailor who was a petty officer anywhere from 1841 to 1866, most likely closer to 1841. Underneath a pattern is visible on the back. It is hand made and it's colors can only be guessed at as this badge faded. Eagle is now tan, shield has pink and white stripes, purple on top of shield and, anchor in blue and shield bordered in yellow. I hope I described it as it is? Drawn to scale as shown.

AMPHIBIOUS INSIGNIA (Part 1)

According to John A. Stacey in his book: U.S. NAVY RATING BADGES, SPECIALTY MARKS, DISTINGUISHING MARKS 1895-1982, the Chief of Naval Personnel replied to a request from Landing Craft School, the Amphibious Force Pacific Fleet on 24 April 1943 and informed them that the insignia shown was being sold by San Diego tailors and these were unauthorized. This device existed in the form of a distinguishing mark, and in a multi-colored shoulder patch.



Patch courtesy of CWO-4 Lester B. Tucker of Washington state.

IS IT NAVAL?

The answer is that it is not, it is army!
CHEVRONS: Illustrated History and Catalog of U.S. Army Insignia by LTC William K. Emerson of Huntsville, Alabama described a proposed chevron in 1919 for Quartermaster Corps ranking for Quartermaster Sergeant Junior & Master Grades, for Quartermaster Corps and Motor Transport Corps, without a star over the eagle's head for Q.M.C. Jr., with the crossed sword and key replaced by an 8-pointed wheel for Corps of Engineers, Transportation Corps, and Tank Corps. Background material is olive-green wool in composition. All had a green wreath, with the eagle in olive green with star. The wheel was gold and the crossed sword & key, both buff in color. In addition to these were: med. or white lightning bolts; and a wheel, 8 pts. They were never worn! They were proposed in 1919. Emerson put in the 1919-1920 edition of the book, for the 1919-1920 edition. The 1919-1920 edition of the book was made available on the web facility with them. The U.S. Army 1919-1920 have their own and reliable data books ... more later on this subject!

Emerson



SLOP CHEST



WANTED: Crow's Nest II detection draftsmen (DW) needs xeroxes and descriptions of naval insignia. Your name will appear if you want it included as contributor! All drawings are done on 11" X 17" unless many times larger than actual size, tell us if you'd like to have them free or give them away when asked for. Suitable for framing these line drawings in ink. **WRITE: CROW'S NEST, c/o Surge Bookers, P.O. Box 403, San Fernando, CA 91340-0403** no initials, your address and phone. The ads are free of charge, if you want.

PETTY OFFICERS' BADGES (c.1841-1866),
Prior to the 1866 United States naval
regulations, petty officers wore the
badges shown here and other variations
as well. most were hand embroidered.

Special thanks to:
CWO-4 Lee Tucker &
John A. Stacey who
assisted with this
project.



SLEEVE INSIGNIA (1866)



MASTER AT ARMS



WORN ON BOTH SLEEVES
AT THE POSITION
CORRESPONDING TO
THE GOLD STAR ON THE
OFFICER'S SLEEVE -
PETTY OFFICER BADGE
WORN ON BOTH SLEEVES
ABOVE THE ELBOW

SAILMAKER'S MATE



BOTH SLEEVES,
P.O. BADGE ON LEFT
SLEEVE ONLY,
ABOVE ELBOW,
BUT WITHOUT STAR.

WORN ON BOTH SLEEVES, IN FRONT, HALF-
WAY BETWEEN THE WRIST AND ELBOW.
PETTY OFFICER'S BADGE (WITHOUT STAR)
ON LEFT SLEEVE, BELOW ELBOW.

QUARTERMASTER



BOATSWAIN ONLY, IN FRONT,
ON RIGHT OR LEFT SLEEVE
(ACCORDING TO MATE).

COXSWAIN



ODDS AND ENDS

Some time ago John A. Stacey sent me a page from a uniform circular published by the Navy Department in Washington, D.C., 10 June 1881. Shown on the bottom left is the sleeve device for Engineers' Forces. Before World War One, the U.S. Public Health Service issued rating badges to their enlisted personnel similar to the U.S. Navy. 1917 ushered in new badges, about thirty-some odd rates were issued.

[UNIFORM CIRCULAR.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT,

WASHINGTON, June 10, 1881.

Hereafter the sleeve device for the petty officers of the Engineers' force in the Navy shall be a screw propeller and anchor, as per diagram annexed.

WILLIAM N. JEFFERS,
Acting Secretary of the Navy.



U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE (1937)

On navy blue melton, eagle, device, and wreath all in maroon, petty officer electrician's rate. Worn on both sleeves of the navy jumper.



APPRENTICE TRAINING GRADUATE BADGES (1961 to present) U.S. NAVY RATING BADGES, SPECIALTY MARKS, DISTINGUISHING MARKS 1885 - 1962 by John A. Stacey describes those badges and said they were to be worn by graduates whose designation as a striker had not yet been authorized. These below are for Fireman, Airman, and Seaman respectively. Thanks to John A. Stacey and his wonderful book that is a must for ALL navy rating collectors!



THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

MIDSHIPMAN INSIGNIA



Commander



Lieutenant
Commander



Lieutenant



Lieutenant
Junior
Grade



Ensign



Regimental
Chief Petty
Officer



Battalion
Chief Petty
Officer



Company
Petty
Officer



Platoon
Petty
Officer



Guidon
Petty
Officer



First
Petty Officer
(Platoon Guides and
1st Class Squad Leaders)



Second
Petty Officer
(Squad Leaders
2nd Class)



Second
Class



Regimental
Bugle
Corps



Third
Class

NOTE: Fourth Class has no insignia